

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

AID-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /058 W

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R 181330Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0063

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0111

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA PORT CONGESTION

REF: ALEX 0053

1. AFTER INTERMITTENT CLOSINGS OF ALEXANDRIA HARBOR DURING WEEK FEBRUARY 8 DUE SEVERE WINTER WEATHER, NUMBER OF VESSELS WAITING OFFSHORE ROSE TO APPROXIMATELY 45. FIVE DAYS OF EXCELLENT WEATHER FEBRUARY 13-17, HOWEVER, SAW LITTLE REDUCTION IN WAITING LINE AND OUTER HARBOR WAS VERY CONGESTED.

2. PORT DIRECTOR TOLD CONGEN FEBRUARY 18 THAT CONTINUED CONGESTION WAS DUE NECESSITY SHIP EXPORT POTATO CROP ON URGENT BASIS, TWENTY-FIVE SHIPLOADS IN ONE MONTH PERIOD. SCHEDULED FINAL SHIPMENT DATE OF FEBRUARY 17 HAD SLIPPED ONLY TO PROBABLE FEBRUARY 19. MEANWHILE WAITING TIME FOR GENERAL CARGO VESSELS IS ABOUT ONE WEEK.

3. DURING FEBRUARY 18 MEETING CONGEN BROUGHT TO PORT DIRECTOR'S ATTENTION RECENT COMPLAINT BY ONE AMERICAN MASTER (LYKES LINE) OF VERY SLOW AND CASUAL OFF-LOADING HIS CARGO OF PL-480 TO TALLOW IN BARRELS WHICH HE FELT UNNECESSARILY DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE. CONGEN ADDED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT LONGSHOREMAN

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EFFICIENCY WAS INDEED SLIPPING FROM DAYS OF MAXIMUM PORT CLEARANCE EFFORT LAST YEAR. PORT DIRECTOR PROMISED TO CHECK

PERSONALLY ON THIS AND APPLY NECESSARY PRESSURE TO IMPROVE
SUPERVISION AND OUTPUT.

4. PORT DIRECTOR BROUGHT TO CONGEN NOTICE SCHEDULED ARRIVAL
OF LYKES VESSELS ON MARCH 4, 6 AND 9 (TWO ON LAST DATE).
ALL APPARENTLY CARRY PARTIAL CARGO OF PL-480 GRAIN SO HE WILL
GRANT THEM PRIORITY DOCKING. BUT THEY ALSO HAVE GENERAL CARGO
WHICH MEANS SHIFTING TO ANOTHER BERTH, BUT HOPEFULLY WITHOUT
LYING OFF PORT AGAIN SINCE "CONFERENCE LINERS" ARE AGAIN
RECEIVING HIGH PRIORITY. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS UNHAPPY ABOUT
PROSPECT OF SEVERAL VESSELS OF ONE SINGLE (AMERICAN) LINE
IN PORT AND UNLOADING AT ONE TIME WHILE SO MANY OTHERS WAIT.
HE AGAIN MAKES PLEA HIS PREDECESSOR DID LAST WINTER: URGE
LYKES NOT TO BUNCH UP THEIR ARRIVALS AT ALEXANDRIA.
CHASE

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